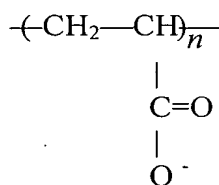


What is claimed is:

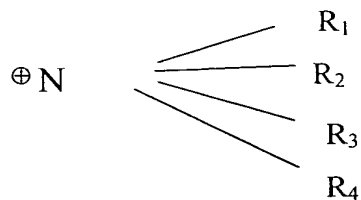
1. An image-receiving element for use in a photographic or photothermographic diffusion transfer process comprising in sequence:
  - a support;
  - an image-receiving layer; and
  - 5 a strip-coat layer overlying said image-receiving layer, said strip-coat layer comprising an anion of a poly(acrylic acid) represented by the formula



(I)

where n is an integer of from about 65 to about 3500

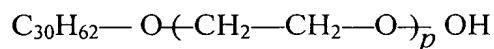
complexed with a cationic quaternary salt represented by the formula



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> – R<sub>4</sub> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub> – C<sub>6</sub> alkyl and  $\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{R}_5$ , wherein m is 1 or 2 and R<sub>5</sub> is phenyl.

2. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 1 wherein said strip coat layer further includes an ethoxylated polymer represented by the formula



5 where p is an integer of about 40.

3. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 1 wherein said anion of poly(acrylic acid) has a molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 500,000.

4. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 3 wherein said anion of poly(acrylic acid) has a molecular weight of about 50,000.

5. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 1 wherein said strip coat comprises from about 5:1 to about 1:1 parts by weight of said anion of poly(acrylic acid) to said quaternary salt.

6. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 1 wherein said quaternary salt is ammonium chloride.

7. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 2 wherein said strip coat comprises from about 10 to about 40 parts by weight of said ethoxylated polymer and from about 60 to about 90 parts by weight of said anion of poly(acrylic acid) and said quaternary salt.

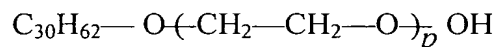
8. The image-receiving element as defined in Claim 2 wherein said strip coat comprises an anion of poly(acrylic acid), ammonium chloride and said ethoxylated polymer.

9. A diffusion transfer film unit adapted for use in photographic and photothermographic processes, said film unit comprising:

a photosensitive element comprising a support carrying at least one silver halide emulsion layer; and

5 an image-receiving element as defined in Claim 1 adapted to be separated from said photosensitive element following photoexposure and photographic processing.

10. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 9 wherein said strip coat layer further includes an ethoxylated polymer represented by the formula



5 where p is an integer of about 40.

11. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 9 wherein said anion of poly(acrylic acid) has a molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 500,000.

12. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 11 wherein said anion of poly(acrylic acid) has a molecular weight of about 50,000.

13. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 9 wherein said strip coat comprises from about 5:1 to about 1:1 parts by weight of said anion of poly(acrylic acid) to said quaternary salt.

14. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 9 wherein said quaternary salt is ammonium chloride.

15. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 9 wherein said strip coat comprises from about 10 to about 40 parts by weight of said ethoxylated polymer and from about 60 to about 90 parts by weight of said anion of poly(acrylic acid) and said quaternary salt.

16. The diffusion transfer film unit as defined in Claim 10 wherein said strip coat comprises said anion of poly(acrylic acid), ammonium chloride and said ethoxylated polymer.